

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-16 are pending in the application.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying PTO-1449 form were filed on April 12, 2000. There is presently no indication that the Examiner considered the documents identified in that Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the documents identified in that Information Disclosure Statement by initialing the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialed form to the undersigned.

Likewise, Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's consideration of, and making of record, the documents submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 6, 2000. Applicant also notes the Examiner has indicated one (1) document (CN 348921) was missing. Applicant has enclosed another copy of this document and respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge consideration of this document identified in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 6, 2000 by initialing the PTO-1449 form for this document and returning a copy of the initialed form to the undersigned.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to as being informal. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the application was filed with formal drawings. A copy of the formal drawings are enclosed herewith. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103 Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Sekiguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,658). Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Qian et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,803). Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as allegedly being anticipated by Adolph et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,430). Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Regarding claims 1, 9 and 10, the Examiner has alleged that the Sekiguchi et al. patent anticipates the claimed features. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Sekiguchi et al. reference has been mischaracterized by the Examiner and does not anticipate Applicant's claimed combinations. For example, the Examiner has alleged that the Sekiguchi et al. patent discloses a system that decodes a first coding scheme and a second coding scheme, in reference to Fig. 1. In contrast to the Examiner's interpretation, the Sekiguchi et al. patent discloses the following "FIG. 1 illustrates a decomposition of a video sequence of MPEG-1 video data to be decoded" (see, column

6, lines 21-22). Further, the Sekiguchi et al. patent discusses the various components of the MPEG-1 video sequence as follows in column 8, lines 4-19:

FIG. 1 shows a decomposition of a video sequence of MPEG-1 video data with different data elements in layers. A decoder of the present invention is intended primarily to decode digital video data in a layered bit stream according to the method prescribed by ISO/IEC 11172-2 (MPEG-1).

With reference to FIG. 1, a video sequence consists of one or more groups of pictures or GOPs. A GOP is a series of one or more pictures. A picture contains one or more slices. A slice is a series of two or more macroblocks. A macroblock is a plurality of blocks. Thus, digital video data are organized by hierarchical levels of data or in layers. A top level in hierarchy in the video sequence is a sequence layer. The next level in the hierarchy is a GOP layer followed by a picture layer. A picture layer is followed by a slice layer. A macroblock layer follows a slice layer and the lowest level in the hierarchy is a block layer following a macroblock layer.

From the above referenced passages, it is clear that the Sekiguchi et al. patent is directed to a decoding scheme that does not decode a first coding scheme and a second coding scheme as recited in Applicants' claimed combinations. Instead, the Sekiguchi et al. patent is directed to decoding a single coding scheme (e.g., MPEG-1). Accordingly, at least this feature of Applicants' claimed combinations is not disclose, as alleged by the Examiner.

Regarding claims 6 and 8, the Examiner has alleged that Qian et al. and Adolph et al. anticipate these claims. However, Applicants respectfully submit that these references also at least fail to teach a system that operates on a first coding scheme and a second coding scheme.

Regarding the Qian et al. patent, the Examiner relied on Fig. 2, showing shape, texture, and motion encoders as teaching a first coding scheme and a second coding

scheme. However, contrary to the Examiner's conclusions, these encoders are part of a single coding scheme (e.g., MPEG-4) as noted in column 7, lines 12-20.

Regarding the Adolph et al. patent, the Examiner relied on Fig. 3, showing VE1 and VE2, as disclosing a first coding scheme and a second coding scheme. Again, contrary to the Examiner's conclusions, these encoders are part of a single coding scheme (e.g., MPEG-2) as noted in column 4, lines 33-44 as follows (with emphasis added).

FIG. 3 illustrates a block diagram of a transmitter for the transmission method according to the invention, two programmes being transmitted by way of example. Video and audio signals V1, A1, V2, A2 are each fed to a source coder VE1, AE1 and VE2, AE2, respectively. A common programme data stream is produced from the source-coded video and audio signals, together with supplementary data which are generated in a stage DE1 and DE2, respectively, in a programme multiplexer MUX1 and MUX2, respectively. The various (in the example of FIG. 3: two) programme data streams are then combined in a transport multiplexer MMUX to form a transport data stream **in accordance with the MPEG2 system specification**, the transport packets being identified on the basis of the packet identifiers.

Clearly, both the systems described above teach one common coding scheme for the various encoders used in the described embodiments. Accordingly, at least the first and second coding schemes feature of Applicants' claimed combinations is not disclose or suggest, as alleged by the Examiner.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ...claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9

USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The references applied by the Examiner neither expressly nor inherently describes every feature of Applicants' claimed combinations as detailed in the foregoing arguments. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references do not anticipate Applicants' claimed combinations as alleged by the Examiner.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on the above-identified independent claims. See MPEP § 2143.01. Moreover, these claims recite additional subject matter, which is not suggested by the documents taken either alone or in combination.

Further, new claim 16 is directed to selective decoding based on a result of determination as to the coding a scheme. Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references do not teach or suggest at least this feature either alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark E. Olds, Reg. No. 46,570, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

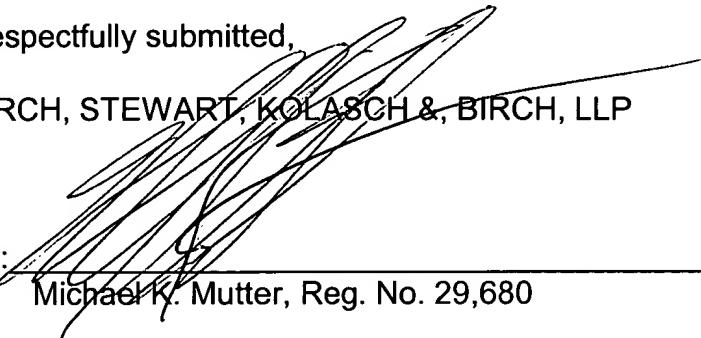
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$110 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Copies of formal drawings